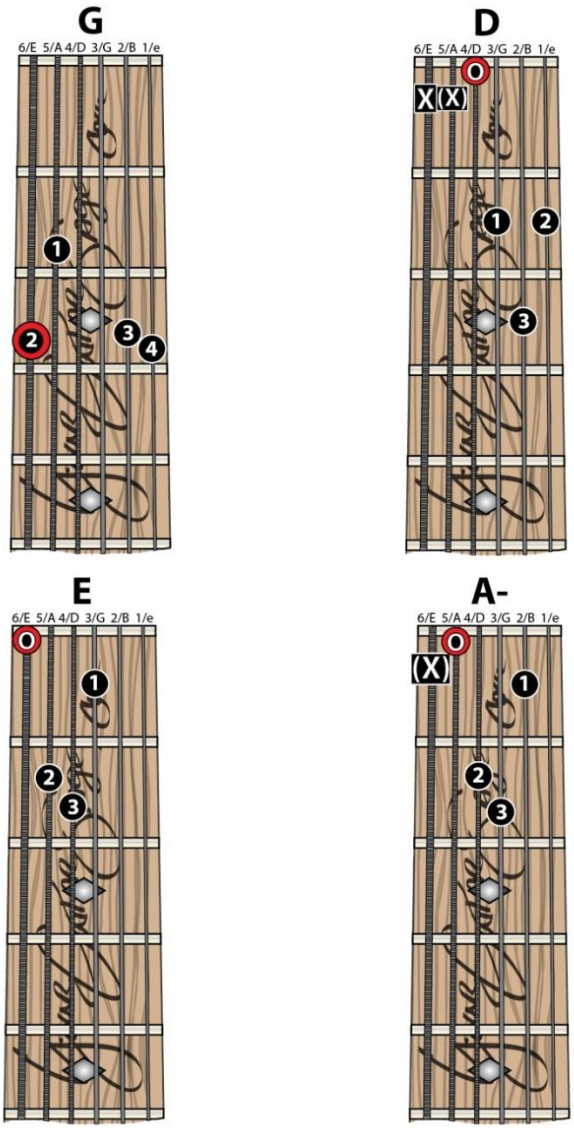
How to Play Open Chords

Playing open chords can seem like a daunting task for new players, but remember EVERY player goes through this. SO HANG ON!

First of all, remember the importance of playing on your fingertips. If you play on the pads of your fingers, you will NOT be able to play chords well! Observe your hand when you are playing. If something does not sound right, it's PROBABLY NOT! Play with the specified fingers to start off.

If you want to change fingerings after you have mastered these chords, then great! But for now, stick to the specified fingering and you will quickly see your discipline pay off. Arpeggiate (pick slowly) through the chord so that you can hear each note as it is being played. You will only cheat yourself by being sloppy, so pay close attention to your fingerings and technique.

When transitioning from one chord to the next, be aware of your fingers; which ones need to move where and what fingers stay in place, (i.e. the 3rd finger never moves when going from a D to a G chord, or from a G to a D. For E to A-, all the fingers move together.)


G
6/E 5/A 4/D 3/G 2/B 1/e
1
2
3
4
D
6/E 5/A 4/D 3/G 2/B 1/e
O
X
(X)
1
2
3
E
6/E 5/A 4/D 3/G 2/B 1/e
O
1
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A-
6/E 5/A 4/D 3/G 2/B 1/e
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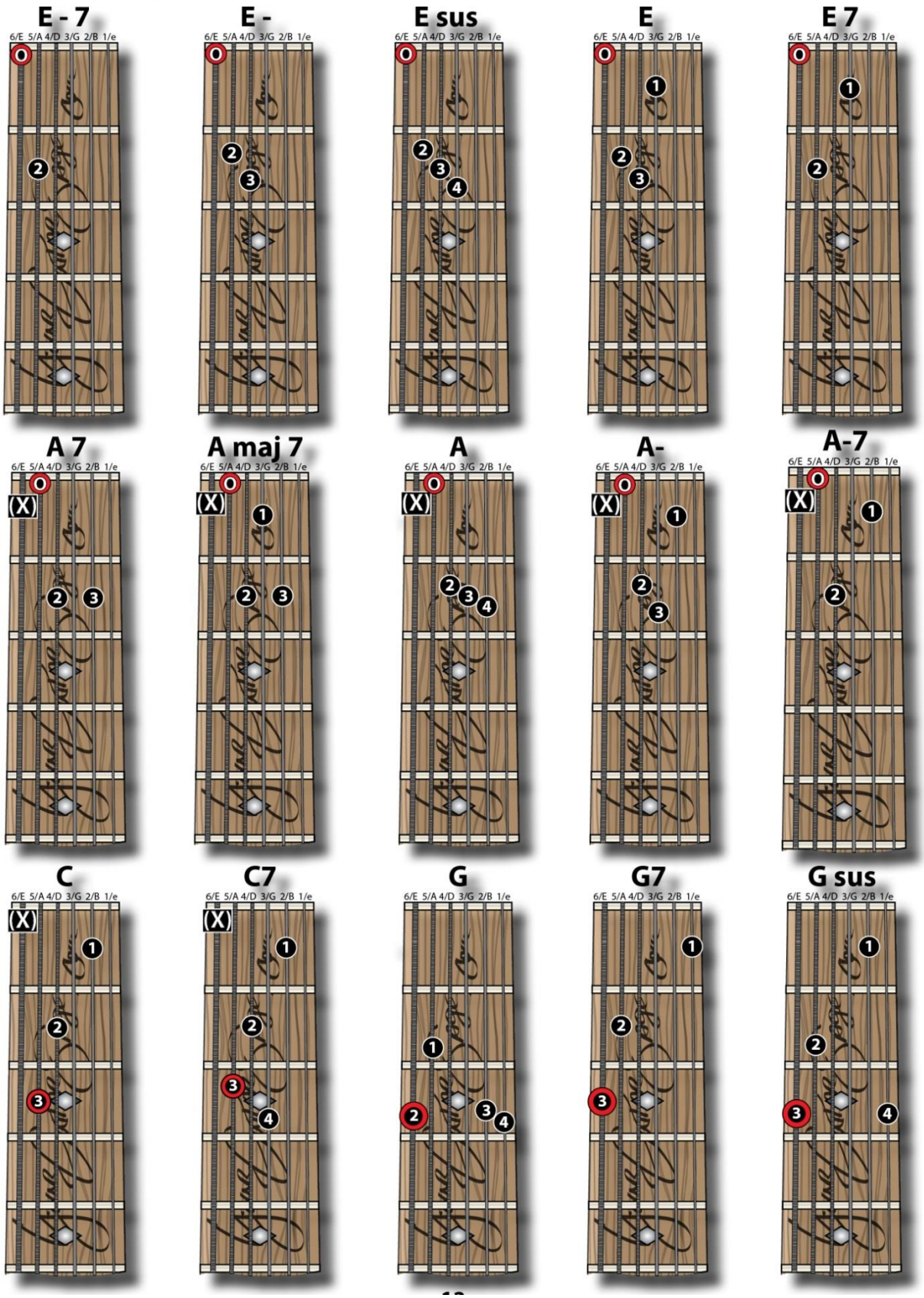
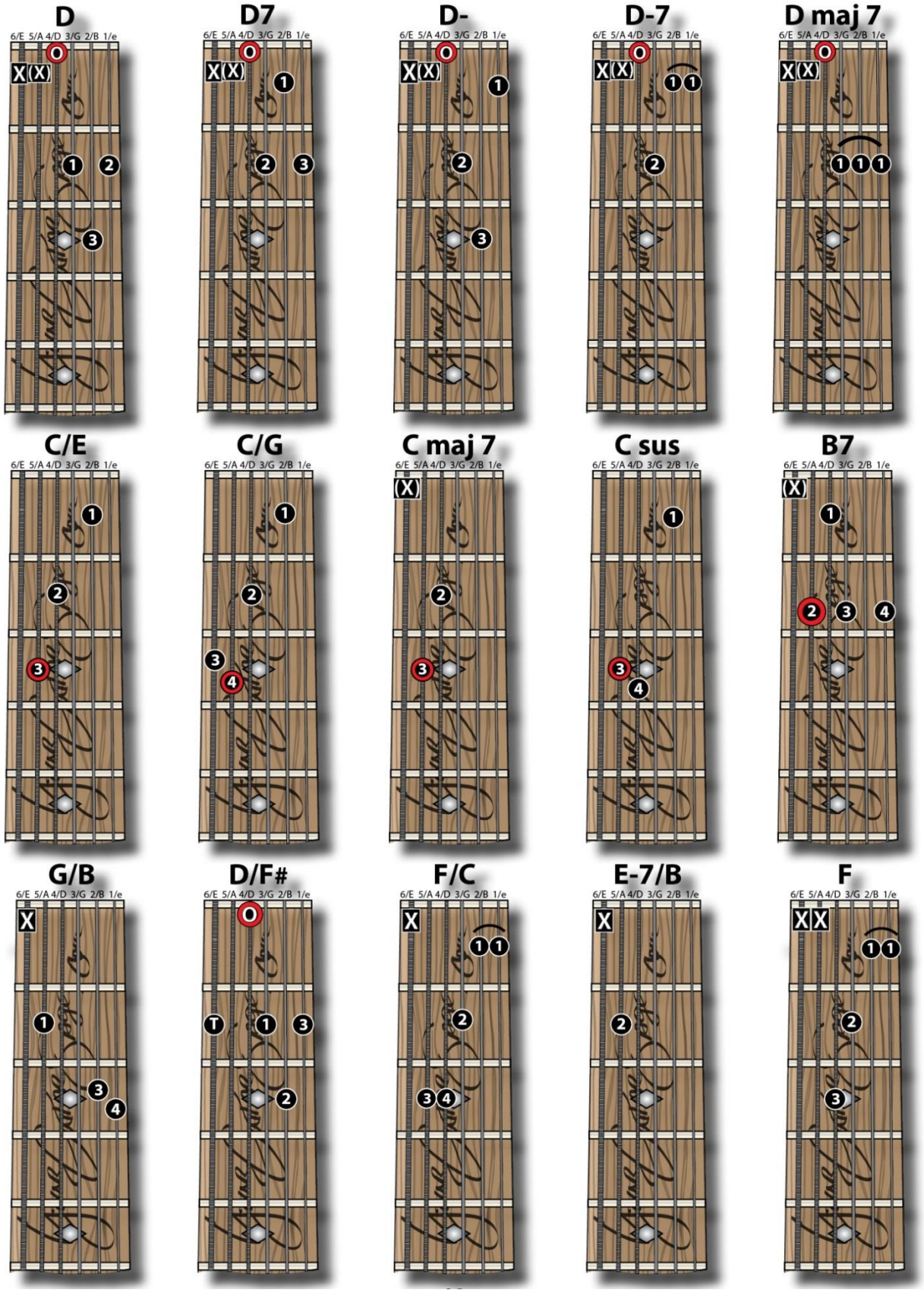

E - 7
E -
E sus
E
E 7
A 7
A maj 7
A
A-
A-7
C
C7
G
G7
G sus
6/E 5/A 4/D 3/G 2/B 1/e


D
D7
D-
D-7
D maj 7
C/E
C/G
C maj 7
C sus
B7
G/B
D/F#
F/C
E-7/B
F
6/E 5/A 4/D 3/G 2/B 1/e